

OLL FILE

OLL 86-0242

31 January 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE RECORD

Recept #

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SUBJECT: GAO Briefing on Agricultural Trends

1. On Wednesday, 29 January 1986 in Room 2C40 Headquarters, GAO staffers Stanton Rothouse, Barbara Schmitt and Phillip Thomas met with members of the OGI/Economic Section/Commodity Market Branch to discuss agricultural trends. The CIA participants were:

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2. GAO is studying agricultural trends and U.S. competitiveness in the world agricultural market. They have been tasked by Congress to conduct two major reviews: Export enhancement programs and export promotional/market development programs. They are keying on three areas: (1) changing structure of the world market; (2) U.S./foreign agricultural policy/programs; and (3) foreign country competitive practices--how they impact on the U.S. GAO wanted to get some sense of how CIA views these issues and what CIA thinks the key issues are.

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3. General discussion ensued covering such topics as: How CIA views the worldwide agricultural market today; agricultural technology, Third World debt and its impact; Soviet grain; and bilateral trade agreements and their impact. GAO asked many policy questions--obviously aimed at gaining an insight into U.S. competitiveness--which our briefers artfully dodged.

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4. GAO handed out several completed studies and also two draft papers which they asked CIA to review and provide feedback. They also requested to obtain any CIA publications having to do with agricultural trends in the world market. The briefers promised them nothing.

5. The following day I was asked to meet with [redacted] and his boss, [redacted] to sort out what guidelines they should follow in dealing with GAO. I told them there are no set rules but rather informal procedures. One is that we don't provide GAO with classified publications--thus negating GAO's request--and another is that we are under no obligation to review/edit GAO's material.

[redacted] suggested it might be worthwhile for [redacted] to come brief the OGI hierarchy on the procedures relating to GAO/OTA and also describe the functions of OLL itself. He and [redacted] were very interested in the workings of this office.

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Office of Legislative Liaison

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